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(GOVERNMENT LEAKS)

(BY ED ROBERTS)

WASHINGTON (UPI) - SEN. BIRCH BAYH, CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE, SUGGESTED TODAY THAT GOVERNMENT POLICY MAKERS WHO LEAK DAMAGING INFORMATION SHOULD BE PUNISHED.

"I AM TIRED OF READING IN NEWSPAPERS INFORMATION THAT HAS TO COME FROM PERSONS IN HIGH PLACES. I WANT TO GET IT STOPPED ACROSS THE BOARD," THE INDIANA DEMOCRAT SAID.

BAYH COMMENTED WHILE QUESTIONING DEPUTY CIA DIRECTOR FRANK CARLUCCI ABOUT PROPOSALS TO ESTABLISH CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR PERSONS WHO REVEAL NAMES OF UNDERCOVER CIA AGENTS.

HE DID NOT MAKE ANY SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS ON WHAT PUNISHMENT SHOULD BE METED OUT.

ONE OF THE FIVE BILLS BEING STUDIED CALLS FOR UP TO 10 YEARS IN PRISON AND A \$50,000 FINE FOR VIOLATORS, AND ADDS A CONTROVERSIAL PROVISION FOR UP TO FIVE YEARS IN PRISON AND A \$10,000 FINE FOR THOSE WHO RECEIVE AND PUBLISH CIA IDENTITIES.

BAYH CRITICIZED POLICY MAKERS WHO USE STRATEGIC LEAKS TO CREATE PUBLIC PRESSURE TO INFLUENCE GOVERNMENT DECISIONS.

DURING THE SENATE DEBATE ON THE STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TREATY THERE WOULD BE A "PRO-SALT LEAK ONE DAY AND AN ANTI-SALT LEAK THE NEXT," BAYH SAID, WHILE "THE RUSSIANS WERE SITTING THERE LAPPING IT UP."

CARLUCCI COULD SUGGEST NO WAY TO CURB SUCH LEAKS.

THE CIA OFFICIAL SAID HIS MAIN CONCERN WAS PERSONS WHO SET OUT TO DESTROY THE AGENCY OR DISRUPT ITS INTELLIGENCE GATHERING BY PUBLISHING IDENTITIES OF ITS UNDERCOVER AGENTS ABROAD.

SUCH EXPOSURES NOT ONLY ENDANGER THE AGENTS' LIVES BUT ALSO HAMPER INTELLIGENCE GATHERING BY MAKING SOURCES AFRAID TO COOPERATE WITH THE CIA, HE SAID.

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